

THE BEST DRESSED WOMAN IN NEW YORK

Mrs. Henry Sloane, the New Fashion Leader of New York's "400."

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BLACK BROADCLOTH STREET DRESS BRAIDED IN BLACK AND MADE WITH ROYAL PURPLE VELVET COLLAR AND CUFFS.

MRS. HENRY SLOANE

WHITE CREPE DE CHINE HOUSE GOWN EMBROIDERED WITH WHITE AND YELLOW DAISIES.

BALL GOWN OF WHITE TULLE EMBROIDERED WITH GOLD THREADS IN THE FORM OF ORCHIDS AND TRIMMED WITH GOLD LACE.

OPERA CLOAK OF NILE GREEN BROADCLOTH EMBROIDERED WITH SILVER AND PURPLE THREADS AND LINED AND TRIMMED WITH ERMINE

THEATRE WAIST OF CERISE VELVET, BLACK VELVET BANDS AND YELLOW LACE.

DRESSING SACQUE MADE OF GROUPS OF PINK SILK TUCKS ALTERNATING WITH BANDS OF CREAM LACE INSERTION

GREEN VELVET PRINCESS GOWN STUDDED WITH GREEN BEADS EMBROIDERED WITH GREEN SILK.

THE best dressed woman in New York is Mrs. Henry T. Sloane. This is a fact admitted by all of the Four Hundred. Her wardrobe for the Winter is here described for the first time. Such artistic gowns have never been seen in New York. Each one of them has been made under Mrs. Sloane's personal direction. They are remarkable for their exquisite blending of colors, graceful lines and their individuality.

In addition to her well-known success as hostess, Mrs. Sloane is now the leader of the Four Hundred in the matter of dress.

What she wears society's smart set eagerly copies. Her dresses this year are notable not only for their splendor, but their simplicity.



MRS. HENRY T. SLOANE has robbed Mrs. John Jacob Astor of the distinction of being New York's best dressed woman, and is now the acknowledged fashion leader of the Four Hundred. And to be the best dressed woman in New York is no little distinction, for it practically means to be the best dressed woman in the Western Hemisphere. It has not been necessary, however, for Mrs. Sloane to depend entirely upon her clothes for her charm, for she is a woman of rare grace and beauty.

She has dark brown eyes and glossy black hair, which she wears drawn back from her forehead in a low pompadour of undulating waves. Her eyebrows are pencilled and her lashes are long and curling. She has a dark olive skin, rich coloring and a figure which would make the most of any gown.

Mrs. Sloane is 5 feet 6 inches in height. Her bust measure is 38 inches and her waist 23 inches. She is famous for the beauty of her neck, shoulders and arms.

There are many and good reasons why Mrs. Sloane is now acknowledged to be the best dressed woman in New York.

And here are the best of the reasons:

She is original.

She does not follow prevailing fashions—she makes them.

She personally directs the making of her gowns, even to the most trivial details.

She is artistic.

She studies every curve of her figure before ordering her gowns.

She only wears the colors which will blend harmoniously with the tints of her hair, eyes and cheeks.

She is remarkably fond of detail, and gives as much thought to the placing of a buckle as she does to the entire design of her gown.

She has the greater number of her gowns made in America, where she may carefully watch their construction.

She has specially made closets in her home for the keeping of her gowns, and a maid, whose sole duty it is to care for them.

Mrs. Sloane started early last Summer to plan her wardrobe for the social season of '98 and '99. Each gown has been thought out with the greatest care.

She has thirty ball gowns among her magnificent collection of new Winter costumes, fifteen house gowns, ten street dresses, twenty-five separate waists, fifteen dressing sacques, twenty hats and theatre bonnets and ten carriage and opera wraps.

Is there any wonder that special closets have been constructed to hold this wardrobe or a maid specially engaged to care for it?

The closets are sweet-smelling rooms, long and narrow. About a half yard from the walls on both sides are long brass rods, and at intervals along the rods coat supporters are suspended.

The supporters are of wire, wound with perfumed cotton and covered with silk. On these supporters the skirts and bodices are hung. The maid is always careful to see that the skirts are hung on one side of the closet and the bodices on the other. When not in use all the sleeves of the gowns are stuffed with paper, and the bows are treated in the same fashion.

There is also a special veil drawer in these closets, for Mrs. Sloane is most particular about her veils, only wearing those which are made to order.

Violet is her favorite perfume, but she only uses it in the form of sachet, so that just the slightest suggestion of the perfume may be detected.

She is a great lover of natural violets, however, invariably wearing with her street costumes a large bunch pinned to her corsage.

Mrs. Sloane likes fur, particularly sable and ermine. Many of her house and ball gowns, as well as her street costumes, are trimmed with fur.

Purple and varying shades of green are her favorite colors. A touch of these colors is seen in almost all of her newest gowns.

Her jewels are famous. She has just added to her already magnificent collection a diamond collar, which, when it made its first appearance at the opera the other evening, created a distinct sensation. Mrs. Sloane has been collecting the gems for this collar for a number of years. There are three rows of diamonds which fit the neck closely, fastening at the back with a diamond clasp. From the front of the collar diamond pendants are suspended. Each diamond, which comprises the collar is worth a small fortune. This circlet of diamonds is considered the most magnificent of all the rare jewels seen at the opera this year.

In addition to her new diamond collar Mrs. Sloane owns a marvellously beautiful diamond and emerald necklace. In fact, her collection of emeralds alone is famous and unique. Of all gems they are her favorites.

Now for the exquisite gowns which Mrs. Sloane will wear this Winter:

The illustrations show the costumes to which she has given the most thought.

There is her ball gown, which is already the envy of every woman who has caught a glimpse of it. It is a dazzling creation of shimmering gold lace, the net, rich satin and delicately embroidered orchids. The gown is made with four separate skirts, and it is conspicuously long all the way around.

The foundation skirt is gold silk. Then comes a petticoat of gold-color satin. Over this is a white tulle skirt, which looks like a filmy cloud, and then the outside drapery of white net, wonderfully wrought in pure gold threads and spangles to form orchids.

The low-cut corsage is defined by a frill of solid gold lace. This lace is caught up on the shoulders with gold buckles, forming a substitute for a sleeve. A bunch of silk velvet-petaled orchids is fastened among the folds of the glistening lace on the left shoulder.

When Mrs. Sloane dons this gorgeous gown she will wear in her hair a white tulle bow spangled with gold. This ball costume is said to be the most artistic gown in New York.

Perhaps the most beautiful of Mrs. Sloane's opera cloaks is the one shown in the illustration. It is a regal looking wrap, made of Nile green broadcloth, embroidered with silver and purple threads and trimmed with ermine and rare lace. And not only is the cloak trimmed with ermine, but it is lined throughout with this costly fur. The collar is conspicuously high and is lined with velvet, veiled with lace. The lace is arranged to form a fan-like frill above the collar at the back, adding an unusually becoming touch to the garment.

Mrs. Sloane has a Princess gown among her collection of costumes which is well worthy of description. It has made the Princess gown fashionable again among the women of the "smart" set. She wears this particular Princess gown as a calling costume.

It is made of deep green velvet, with the entire front studded with shaded green beads and embroidered in green silk threads. This same embroidery extends around the bottom of the skirt, which is made with a decided train. There is a soft, full vest to this velvet costume, of white chiffon, powdered with fine green beads. The dress is lined throughout with white satin.

With this Princess costume Mrs. Sloane wears a deep sable collar and carries a big sable muff.

Her hat, which was designed to match the gown, is an artistic little toque of faint green velvet, trimmed with shaded green tips and real lace.

All of Mrs. Sloane's gowns are exceptionally long and they all have trains, even her street dresses.

One of her most stylish walking costumes is made of the finest of black broadcloth, profusely braided in black. The jacket is so short that it sets an entirely new fashion. The costume is given a decided color touch by a deep collar and cuffs of royal purple velvet.

A large picture hat of purple velvet is worn with this walking dress. It is trimmed in a most artistic fashion, with six purple ostrich tips and a gorgeous silver and rhinestone buckle. A rule which the best dressed woman in New York strictly adheres to is never to put a hat on in a hurry.

The daintiest of Mrs. Sloane's many house gowns is an artistic little dress, made of white crepe de chine, hand embroidered in yellow and white daisies. The dress is made over a foundation of white silk. There are long, finely tucked sleeves of the crepe de chine, and the soft little bodice is made with a bolero jacket of the embroidered crepe, and where it joins at the corsage is a generous bow of yellow velvet. The same shade of velvet is used to form the collar and the girdle, and in the direct front the collar is fastened with an oddly-shaped little ecrû lace bow.

Mrs. Sloane not only possesses the most beautiful ball gown in New York, but she owns the most exquisite dressing sacque. It is made entirely of groups of pink china silk tucks, alternating with bands of cream lace insertion. A fichu of pink silk, edged with lace, is draped artistically over the shoulders. It lies at the corsage, the long ends reaching quite to the bottom of the skirt. At the corsage the ends are narrow, but they broaden as they reach the hem of the skirt.

A great number of fancy waists are seen in Mrs. Sloane's collection of costumes. A theatre waist, of which she is specially fond, is made of black velvet bands, yellow lace and cerise velvet. The lace is used for the yoke, and to alternate with the bands of velvet in forming the slightly puffed front. The elbow sleeves are of shirred cerise velvet. They are finished with a fall of real lace, and where the velvet and lace join a rhinestone buckle is caught. This fanciful waist has a high stock collar of cerise velvet, with three wired lace points at the back standing up very high.

Mrs. Sloane will require all of her gorgeous gowns this Winter, as she is planning to entertain in more than her usually lavish manner. The first series of entertainments—her Sunday night musicales—have been pronounced by society's chosen few to be the most brilliant functions of the kind given in New York.